

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD
M. COURSE JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Edward McCoy Course Jr.

Mr. Course, 68, died Tuesday, July 7, 2020, in Greenwood, Mississippi. He was the longest-serving deacon at Providence Missionary Baptist Church and the church secretary. Mr. Course was also a life member of the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association and past president of its Leflore County chapter. He served as chairman of the Leflore County Election Commission for 41 years and worked for the Mississippi State Department of Health for 30 Years, serving as district supervisor of environmental quality.

Working in the civil rights movement at an early age, he marched as a boy and later worked within the NAACP for a short time. Mr. Course displayed a willingness to give back to the community, to work, and asked for very little in return. He spent all his life at Providence and was beloved by many.

As chairman of the election commission, he would help with voter registration drives, going to local high schools, and MVSU to ensure people understood the processes and volunteering to make sure everything was run smoothly. He was able to offer a wealth of knowledge to all those around him.

Mr. Course is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mrs. Linda Course of Greenwood; a special niece, Jakayla Rayford of Greenwood; six sisters, Marjorie Course of Houston, Texas, Joyce Ann Course and Sandra Course, both of Greenwood, Katie Course and Denise (Thad) Johnson, both of Jackson, and Gail (Lucious) Lewis of Clinton; and two brothers, Ervin Course of Greenwood and Terrence Course (Celdrick) of Carrollton.

Mrs. Course said that her husband lived by a simple sentiment that she feels personifies the message they wanted to share to the world: "Never lose faith or give up."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Edward McCoy Course Jr., in which he was a faithful community leader, worker, and motivator.

TRIBUTE TO TRACY BEARD—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2020

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Tracy Beard of Solvang, California.

Tracy Beard currently serves as Executive Director of the Solvang Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Association of Re-

gional Councils, and served as board member, treasurer, and vice president of the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. Lomako was president of the Heat and Warmth Fund, and has also sat on the boards of Inforum, the Urban Land Institute, and the Michigan Society of Association Executives. In addition, Lomako has been a fierce advocate for women, serving as a board member and officer with the Women's Economic Club and a board member with the Michigan Chapter of Women in Transportation.

Without a doubt, Kathleen Lomako has devoted her career to serving Michigan and has worked tirelessly to ensure it remains a fruitful, safe, and prosperous place. Across all capacities, Lomako has been recognized as a dedicated, compassionate, and humble leader who strives to make a meaningful difference. She has been the voice of reason in challenging times and has encouraged all to work together to better our state. Her efforts have transformed Michigan, and her impact will forever be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Kathleen Lomako. I am proud to honor her work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank her for her outstanding service and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

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IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN LOMAKO FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Kathleen Lomako as she celebrates her retirement and recognize her many years of distinguished service with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Her contributions to Michigan are worthy of commendation.

Kathleen Lomako has dedicated much of her professional career to working in various positions at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). She joined SEMCOG in 1979, and quickly became a pillar of the organization. Since 2014, Lomako has served as executive director, where she has overseen a staff of 66 and has led SEMCOG's efforts to address a variety of multi-community, regional issues such as transportation, water quality, air quality, solid waste, land use, community and economic development, and data analysis. Beyond SEMCOG, Lomako has also been president of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC), a nonprofit public/private partnership dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life in Southeast Michigan.

Kathleen Lomako has held several other leadership positions and is known throughout the community as a passionate leader who effects change. She was vice chair of the Michigan Infrastructure Council, chair of the Executive Director Council at the Association of Re-

V-J DAY

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 4, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans of the First District of Oklahoma, who served in the Pacific Theater of the Second World War, in remembrance of Victory over Japan Day, commonly known as V-J Day.

Following the surrender of Japanese forces on August 15, 1945, President Harry Truman proclaimed, "This is a victory of more than arms alone. This is a victory of liberty over tyranny." The dark years of fighting had finally come to an end, through the bravery and sacrifice of a generation of Americans.

As we stand here seventy-five years later, their legacy reminds us of God's grace, the true meaning of honor, and the unimaginable blessing bestowed on each and every one of us to live in the United States of America.

Today, I honor some of the bravest warriors on the face of the earth—heroes who were willing to venture into unknown territories to meet an uncertain fate, who weathered unimaginable circumstances.

When their nation called, men and women left their families, spouses, and children to go to a foreign place stricken with war and savagery, all because they knew the United States of America was the last great hope on earth. Those who served not only saved our nation and our world from tyranny, but they changed the course of history forever.

As the news of the war ending spread around the world, we can only now imagine the thrill of emotions that spread like fire through country sides and city squares across America. Millions of people took to the streets, many of which were covered with blizzards of confetti, and citizens crowded into churches to